American Freedmans Union Commission,

No. 76 John Street. — P. O. Box 5,733.

LYMAN ABBOTT, Gen. Sec. J. M. McKIM, Cor. Sec.

New York, 16 Dec. 1866.

My Dear Mr Garrison-

You have hardly touched
on these themes before you are greeted
with a call to further labor-
But the campaign of freedom is
clearly not ended- The recent
elections show that the elevation
& education of the colored people
are not to be accomplished without
a battle; & that we must fight
this battle, not only now chiefly
perhaps in the South, but in
our own Northern states. I do
not know how far you are

cognizant of the present condition
of affairs. We have a goodly
number of leaders in the field.
But their support begins to look
uncertain. The times are hard.
The people are discouraged - Early
enthusiasm has effervesced. There
is not full confidence in
the political leaders. The work
of reconstruction seems to the
popular impatience wretchedly
slow. We cannot even carry
on what we have begun
& an honorable termination
unless we meet the Southern
invasion, awaken new hope
& courage, & arouse the people

from their abetting.

Mr McKim is on his way home from the East where he has spent two or three months. Hee has succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of leading men in important points. It remains to awaken a popular enthusiasm. For this purpose we must hold several public meetings to be addressed by men who have the confidence of the liberty-loving people. We want very much you to go West for this purpose. I cannot overrate the importance of such a movement. Mr McKim

will write you details as
to time & places. But I
cannot forbear adding
this earnest endorsement
to his request; this earnest
expression of my own con-
viction of the indispensable
importance of some such
movement.

Yours truly

Lyman Abbott